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Subject: Inspiring the American Dream Foundation Teams Up With Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute to Pilot New Opportunity to Succeed Program

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2014

Inspiring the American Dream Foundation Teams Up With Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute to Pilot New Opportunity to Succeed Program

Sunset, SC – (October 7, 2014) – Inspiring the American Dream Foundation today announced that it has entered into a strategic business partnership with Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute (YLI) to pilot the Foundation's new Opportunity to Succeed Program. The program will be integrated into sixth-grade curriculum at the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), the public charter middle school operated by YLI on its Pickens campus.

"We are excited to be partnering with Inspiring the American Dream Foundation," said Youth Leadership Academy Principal, Patsy Wood Smith. "YLA's mission is to help its students discover and cultivate their unique abilities, qualities and skills, enabling them to become successful, productive members of their community. We believe integrating Inspiring the American Dream Foundation's new Opportunity to Succeed Program into our sixth grade curriculum will reinforce that commitment, allowing us to provide new and exciting learning experiences for our students."

Inspiring the American Dream Foundation's Opportunity to Succeed Program has been developed around three guiding principles – **teach**, **share** and **empower**:

Teach students about the American dream, while making the learning experience fun and interesting

Share with students the necessary skills and virtues to achieve their American dream

Empower students by helping them to visualize their personal American dream journey

A variety of learning materials, activities and events will be included in the school's curriculum, inspiring students to learn about contemporary and historical figures that have achieved the American dream, while positively influencing American industry, culture and history. Special emphasis will be placed on concepts and ideals such as freedom, liberty and equal opportunity, which make America and the American dream unique to the rest of the world.

Developed to support its 2014-2015 school year learning objectives, the curriculum will include:

- A field trip to see the *Wright Stuff: First in Flight* at the Peace Center in Greenville, SC
- A book review and discussion of *Abraham's Journey: A Celebration of the American Dream*, in conjunction with an authors' visit
- A book review and discussion of *A Christmas Carol*

- Book reviews and discussions of Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington and Abraham Lincoln
- Motivational speaking events
- Research and development of reports, essays, videos and presentations

“Improving reading, comprehension, writing and technology skills is an essential and fundamental step in helping young, South Carolina students to succeed in school and the workplace,” said Inspiring the American Dream Foundation Chairman, Robert Basmadjian. “Equally important is helping students to develop important character traits such as perseverance, self-reliance and personal responsibility. Working with innovative schools like the Youth Leadership Academy, we believe that this new program will create a valuable learning experience for students, helping them to achieve their personal American dreams.”

About Inspiring the American Dream Foundation

Inspiring the American Dream Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, has been established to help inspire children and young adults to achieve the American dream, a set of ideals in which freedom, ability and virtue provide the opportunity for prosperity, happiness and upward mobility, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class. By engaging children of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds with an appreciation for the ideals, values and virtues inherent in the American Dream, the Foundation will help prepare students across the country to become independent, prosperous and productive members of society. For additional information, visit www.inspire-the-dream.org

About Clemson University’s Youth Learning Institute

Clemson University’s Youth Learning Institute (YLI) is a vital component of Clemson’s youth outreach effort and helps fulfill the University’s mission of public service by using the research and knowledge of University faculty and staff to develop programs that especially reach youth. More than 30,000 young people participate annually in numerous programs held at eight facilities across South Carolina, ranging from one-day, school-based programs to two-week, residential experiences.

Clemson University has been offering experiential education to the youth of South Carolina since 1934. Since that time, Clemson camping has touched the lives of more than 250,000 participants. Initially founded as a 9-week summer camp operation, YLI’s mission expanded beyond traditional camp programming to year-round service to youth, families and youth development professionals.

YLI partners with numerous organizations, such as local schools and school districts, the S.C. Department of Social Services, the Coalition for Natural Resource Education, American Diabetic Association, S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice, Santee Cooper and Columbia College to develop and implement training and education programs that positively impact youth.

For additional information, visit <http://www.clemson.edu/yli/>

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